

500 Coaxed to Leave Blazing Screen Theater

Two Patrolmen Avert Panic in Eighth Ave. House by Telling Audience Fire Is Menacing Neighborhood

New Traffic Plan Tried

Broadway Kept Open While Storeroom Burns; Seven Overcome in Brooklyn

The cool judgment of Patrolmen Joseph McKay and Daniel Brown, of the West Thirtieth Street police station, last night, when they started on the fourth floor of the loft building at 58-59 Eighth Avenue, in which is the Gem Theater, a motion picture house, probably averted a panic and loss of life. Five hundred spectators were watching "The Sheik" when the outbreak occurred.

It was during a showing of "The Sheik" at the Rialto Theater, New Haven, Conn., on November 27 last that the fire started in the fourth floor.

McKay and Brown were at Thirty-second Street and Eighth Avenue, a block away. The fire started on the fourth floor of the Gem main entrance. They ran to the theater, and advancing slowly down the center aisle to a position near the stage, they told the audience that there was a fire in the neighborhood and it would be necessary to ask that the house be emptied. Brown added that there need be no hurry, but that the audience had better begin filing out slowly. Within a few minutes the house had been cleared. Those who departed by the main entrance were showered with broken glass from windows on the fourth and fifth floors. There were no casualties.

High Wind Encourages Flames

Deputy Fire Chief John King, who responded to the first alarm, sent in second and third alarms on observing that flames already had involved the roof and the fourth floor of the structure and were creeping to the roof through an air shaft. A strong east wind fanned the fire into a furnace from which billows of dense smoke rolled westward, creating an impression that nearby buildings were ablaze.

A crowd of more than 5,000 congregated in Eighth Avenue and blocked the street for an hour. Rescuers summoned from the West Thirtieth Street and West Forty-seventh Street police stations found themselves without a commanding officer. Efforts to locate Captain Joseph Howard of the West Thirtieth Street district failed.

A hurry call for Captain Donohue of the West Forty-seventh Street precinct also was fruitless, and command of the scene was assumed by Captain George F. Harrie of East Fifty-first Street station. No difficulty was experienced in keeping back the crowd despite abatement of directing official through most of the fire, sergeants handling the work efficiently.

After the third alarm had been sent in Chief Kenon arrived and took personal charge. Although the blaze was one of the most stubborn encountered in some time, it was under complete control within twenty minutes of the first alarm.

The fire started in the Fantine millinery manufactory, which occupies part of the fourth floor, and spread to the Longacre Press, which occupies the rear of the floor. Damage is estimated at \$75,000.

New Traffic Plan Successful

A new plan for keeping open traffic was tried when Deputy Fire Chief Helm ordered all hydrants on the east side of Broadway for a distance of two and a half blocks to be used last night in the fire at the old Astor Place Building, 746 to 750 Broadway, a block below Wanamaker's store. As a result, Broadway remained open during operations against a stubborn fire in the storeroom fire on the premises of S. Silberman & Co., exporters and manufacturers of cotton goods. The fire was kept to the basement.

Two alarms were sent in, because the Eighth Avenue blaze was in progress at the same time, and one alarm would not have brought sufficient apparatus.

Spectacular rescue was effected by Hook and Ladder Company 108 from the three-story house at 253 Beorum Street, Williamsburg, which was damaged by fire late yesterday afternoon. One young woman jumped from a roof, several persons were taken down ladders and seven were carried over roofs unscathed before the blaze was controlled.

The fire started in a cellar under a grocery on the main floor and spread to the stairway, cutting off three families occupying the upper part of the structure. Patrolmen Otto and McCord, of the Stagg Street station, tried to reach the imprisoned residents but were prevented by the blazing staircase, and rescue work was delayed until fire apparatus arrived.

Two Families Overcome Joseph Demetra, forty years old; his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Fetter and three children of the two families were taken out insensible by Firemen Walter Cavanaugh, Peter Leigh and McZimmerman. They were revived by ambulance surgeons from St. Catherine's, Beth Moses and Williamsburg hospitals.

On the floor above live Antonio Stella, his wife, Lena, and their three children. They made their way to the roof and were out of the fire ladders were erected. Before the apparatus reached them Antonette Stella, sixteen years old, jumped eighteen feet to an adjoining roof suffering injuries to both ankles. All the others were rescued unhurt. The fire damage was small.

Joffre Sails Under U. S. Flag

To Canadian Peace Festival WASHINGTON, March 17.—Marshal Joffre, the French military commander, with Mme. Joffre and their suite, are passengers on the Silver State, of the Admiral Line, being the American flag, on route from Shanghai to Vancouver. Vice-President Love, of the Emergency Fleet Corporation was advised to-day. They left Shanghai on March 12, and are due at Vancouver March 28. They will attend the ceremonies commemorating 100 years of peace between the United States and Canada at Blaine, B. C., proceeding from there to Seattle by rail. Included in the party are Mile. Joffre, Samuel Hill, Mr. Earl and three French colonels.

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Why Be a Hot Mayor Without Secret Shower? Hyman Pleads

Admits Spiral Staircase to Luxurious Quarters in City Hall Basement, but Insists on His Little Joke With Reporter Who Pretends Ignorance of Site

Mayor Hyman had a good laugh yesterday; in fact, he had two good laughs. The first was when he read the accounts in the morning newspapers of the secret staircase from his office to his shower and relaxation rooms in the basement of City Hall and thought of a good joke to play on a reporter. The second was when he and his fellow jokester, David Hirschfeld, Commissioner of Accounts, sprang the joke.

As soon as he got to City Hall the Mayor sent Commissioner Hirschfeld to the reporters' room to announce that the Mayor would give audience to any reporter that might be selected, the Mayor being quite without prejudice when it comes to playing jokes on reporters.

A reporter who was thoroughly familiar with the location of the spiral staircase, as were all his comrades at City Hall, though none had seen it, was selected for the honor and entered the Mayor's office.

"Ha, ha," exclaimed the Mayor in greeting. "Ha, ha! Now isn't it a bit mysterious entrance to the spiral stairway. It's here, all right, I read it in the papers. Take a look around. Let's see you find it. Ha, ha! Ha, ha!"

He glanced at the reporter and smiled. This was going to be funny. The reporter almost smiled himself. He restrained himself, however, and went about his task with proper solemnity. He tapped the walls with a pencil. He pounded them with his fist. He opened the floor with his heel. He opened the closet door and took out two overcoats. He glanced at a telephone booth in the southeast corner of the room.

"I don't mind what the reporters write about me," said the Mayor affably at this point in the investigation. "If they'll only stick to the truth. But you didn't come to hear about that. You want to know all about the spiral stairway."

"Now you look to be a bright young reporter. I'll admit that there is a stairway between this floor and the basement immediately beneath. Now let us suppose that there is a shower bath right at the foot of the stairway—what of it? Summer is coming and mayors, like other mortals, get hot. Suppose you locate the top of the stairway for me. I won't tell you when you are hot or cold. Go right ahead and look. Ha, ha! Ha, ha! Ha, ha!"

It was too good a joke to spoil. Even a reporter hadn't the heart to do it. He marched right past the telephone booth, tapping carefully on the wall. One tap was just like another tap. The reporter gave it up. Departing, he left behind him a robust "Ha, ha! Ha, ha!" and an appreciative though deferential snicker.

The spiral staircase, of course, is reached by a trap door in the floor of the telephone booth. To lock the trap door all the Mayor has to do is to sit on the stool in the telephone booth. The trap door is locked automatically whenever the Mayor talks over his private wire to Police Commissioner Enright's office.

The entrance to the staircase is three feet by three feet in dimensions and any one who can figure out the diameter of a circle whose circumference is forty-two inches will know just how easily the Mayor can slip down the staircase to his shower when he gets hot, as even mayors do.

Clubwomen Join in Drive for Funds

For Legion Camp

Federation to Collect Money

During First Two Weeks in April to Aid Outdoor Hospital for Veterans

The Federation of Women's Clubs joined forces with the American Legion yesterday in the campaign to raise funds for the veterans' mountain camp at Tupper Lake, N. Y.

Five hundred presidents of women's clubs and the leaders of the women's auxiliaries of the American Legion attended a meeting at the Hotel Astor, at which plans for the \$200,000 drive were outlined by Charles Pope Caldwell, chairman of the veterans' mountain camp committee.

Five thousand women will collect money on the streets and in restaurants, theaters and office buildings during the first two weeks of next month. The campaign will start with a parade on April 1.

Ex-service men who are now being "farmed out" by the government in crowded hospitals will be the beneficiaries of the drive. The campaign project. The camp already is in use. Mr. Caldwell explained, with twenty buildings occupied and more large huts in process of erection. The property consists of 1,500 acres, surrounded by 12,000 acres of state land.

The women responded with enthusiasm to the pleas of the American Legion officials. The Theater Assembly, of which Mrs. J. Christopher Marks is president, pledged \$10,000 at first, and later increased this sum by \$15,000 more.

Mrs. J. Walter Comly, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, promised the co-operation of women's clubs throughout the state.

Miss Thais McGraw, chairman of the American Legion Auxiliaries, and Mrs. John Francis Yawger, ex-president of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, were other spokesmen for women's co-operation. Approximately \$45,000 already has been raised.

The first effort of the Legion will be to raise money to care for the veterans soon to be moved from Fox Hills.

Lieutenant Belvin W. Maynard, the "Flying Parson" who won the air race from New York to San Francisco, was introduced as the man who will have active charge of the money-raising campaign. He announced that a meeting to plan for the parade on April 1 will be held on Wednesday morning at the Hotel Astor.

M'Combs' Estate \$225,765

The estate of William F. McCombs, lawyer and chairman of the Democratic National Committee during the first Presidential campaign of Woodrow Wilson, was appraised yesterday for tax purposes at \$225,765. Mr. McCombs died February 22, 1921.

Mr. McCombs owned stocks and bonds valued at \$208,485, the rest being mostly in cash.

Doctors to Decide Crow's Action

PITTSBURGH, March 17.—In a statement issued from his room at Mercy Hospital here into tonight United States Senator W. E. Crow declared that within the next few days he would consult with his doctors and that their decision would determine his future course as United States Senator and chairman of the State Republican Committee.

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NEWARK NEW YORK BROOKLYN

Fire Discloses Lawyer Dead Week in Room

Body of Eugene M. Berard, Who Quit Bar After Lost Case, Is Found in House Adjoining Carnegie Home

Owned Estate in Kentucky Defeated in Ouster Against Squatters; 66 Years Old, Was Cathedral Altar 'Boy'

Eugene Michel Berard, a lawyer, sixty-six years old, was found dead in his room yesterday by firemen going through a rooming house at 15 East Ninetieth Street, next to the Carnegie home. He had been dead about a week.

The firemen were called to the house as the result of a small fire in a closet on the third floor. When this had been extinguished, they went from room to room, throwing open the windows to let out the smoke.

Mr. Berard's room on the fourth floor was locked. Two firemen broke down the door and found the lawyer lying on the floor dead. They thought he had been overcome by smoke and carried the body to the street. An ambulance surgeon was called and found he was dead. Miss Elizabeth Flint, whose room is next to his, remembered hearing some one fall in Mr. Berard's room Sunday.

Mr. Berard was born in Brooklyn, July 27, 1855, and was graduated from the Columbia Law School. He began the practice of his profession in 1876. Until a few years ago he practiced in Kentucky, where he also was proprietor of an estate of several thousand acres. He instituted legal proceedings to eject squatters from his land. His action failed, although he carried it to the Supreme Court of the United States, and Mr. Berard tore up his diploma and vowed he never would practice law again.

He came to New York, and so far as his neighbors know, kept his vow, although he had an office on Cedar Street. He is survived by two sisters. One of them, Katherine Berard, is a nun in Providence Retreat, Buffalo, N. Y.

Began Profession in 1876

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Rural Flapper Wise, Too

Keeping 'Em Down on the Farm Declared Hard Task

CHICAGO, March 17.—While she may not perfume the palms of her hands or rouge her bare knees, the rural flapper is as hard to handle as her city mid-teen sister, Mrs. Stella Shepley, chairman of the Probation Extension Committee, declared to-day before the Illinois Probation Officers.

"The wave of delinquency that has gone over the country the last few years, I believe, reached its peak," Mrs. Shepley said. "It has been worse in the country than in the cities. Intelligent handling of the problem will minimize it. We want gold medal young people more than we want gold medal cattle and pigs."

A juvenile protection officer for each county would aid in "keeping 'em down on the farm," she believed.

To Sell Ship Loan Paper

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Vice-President H. S. Kimball of the Shipping Board, in charge of finance, announced to-day that the Emergency Fleet Corporation was offering at competitive sale securities obtained for advances by the government "to the people on account of the World War" to finance shipbuilding during the emergency.

The mortgages on the real estate offered for sale are valued at \$12,410,425 and notes secured by preferred mortgages have a face value of \$33,600,000.

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Lieutenant Belvin W. Maynard, the "Flying Parson" who won the air race from New York to San Francisco, was introduced as the man who will have active charge of the money-raising campaign. He announced that a meeting to plan for the parade on April 1 will be held on Wednesday morning at the Hotel Astor.

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Free Staters And De Valera Aids Reach U. S.

With Great Britain that she may consider necessary. All the powers explicitly and implicitly possessed and practiced by Canada are secured to Ireland under the treaty and foreign interference with our affairs is gone forever.

Not only in religious societies was Mr. Berard well known, it was found. Among the civic organizations to which he belongs are the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Economic Association, the National Geographic Society, National Municipal League, American Association for Labor Legislation, Forestry Association, American Civic Association, National Child Labor Committee, Children's Society and Playground Association of New York.

The fire was in the third-floor apartment of Miss Victorine Mass, a mortician.

Fleet Corp. Announces Changes in Personnel

W. L. Bull to Head European Division Here, Succeeding Wells, Who Joins U. S. Lines

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, March 17.—Changes in executives and division heads of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, effective March 27, were announced to-day by W. J. Love, vice-president in charge of traffic.

George H. Wells, now in charge of the European section of the Shipping Board in New York, will become freight traffic manager of the United States Lines, which is a part of the Emergency Fleet Corporation. James D. Robertson, son of John D. Robertson, of the Washington staff, will be transferred to New York in charge of the European division.

F. G. Frieser, head of the European division here, becomes assistant traffic manager of homeward rates and traffic. J. E. Andrews becomes head of the European division here, and Allen Pagnell, a shipping man of New York City, joins the fleet corporation staff as head of the Mediterranean division here.

Passenger Disappears at Sea

PLYMOUTH, England, March 17.—On the arrival of the steamship Minnetonka here to-day it was reported that Louis Rothchild, of Montreal, disappeared from the vessel when she was four days out from New York.

Gold Medal for Yellow Rose

A new yellow rose, the "Sousventre de Claudius Pernet," was awarded the gold medal at the Flower Show at the Grand Central Palace yesterday afternoon. This is one of the latest yellow roses ever developed, and is of a pure canary color. It is named in honor of Claudius Pernet, of France, who was killed in the war, and whose father is one of the famous rose growers of France. The new variety was grown by Charles Totty, of Madison, N. J.

First prizes for sweetpeas were taken by two Morrisstown gardeners, Mrs. W. Redmond Cross and Mrs. Ridley Watts. Other winners for sweetpeas were Mrs. Percy Chubb, Mrs. William D. Guthrie, Stuyvesant Fish, Mrs. F. E. Lewis and Daniel Guggenheim.

Five blues and one red in the commercial class for sweetpeas were won by Herman Manthel & Sons, of Tenafly, N. J. W. Atlee Burpee won the big prize and John M. Barker also carried off three firsts and two seconds.

The exhibition will come to an end to-morrow evening at 10:30 o'clock.

Radio Concerts in Parks

Asked of Estimate Board

Municipalization of Wireless

Broadcasting Also To Be Considered by Committee

Wireless concerts by radio telephone are a possibility in the parks of the city this summer, Mayor Hyman at the meeting of the Board of Estimate yesterday appointed a committee to study the possibilities of the radiophone when applied to municipal activities.

The matter was brought to the attention of the board by Borough President Connolly of Queens, who recommended that the committee conduct a thorough investigation and report back to the board. He urged a municipal radio station from which concerts could be sent out and enjoyed in the parks. He suggested also that the committee consider methods of controlling the improper use of public property by erection of wires across the streets, and a method of procedure in the event the committee sees fit to recommend municipalization of wireless broadcasting.

"The municipal station," Mr. Connolly pointed out, "would be used to broadcast high-class concerts, and City Chamberlain Berolzheimer could arrange splendid programs to be sent from the city station."

The radio committee will consist of Arthur S. Tuttle, chief engineer of the Board of Estimate; Commissioner Grover A. Whalen, City Chamberlain Berolzheimer, Rodolph W. Wanamaker and the electrical engineer of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity.

Dr. Lorenz Will Find Clinic Here; Will Sail Home Apr. 12

Dr. Adolf Lorenz, Viennese orthopedic surgeon conducted a final clinic of the series that he has held for the examination of cripples at the Health Department yesterday and examined seventy-five patients.

Dr. Lorenz will depart to-day for Detroit, where he will remain until March 28, returning to New York and sailing for Europe on April 12.

Samuel's Retirement Predicted

LONDON, March 17.—Reports that Sir Herbert Samuel will retire soon as British High Commissioner for Palestine are printed by the "Pall Mall Gazette" and "Globe."

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